

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as deemed appropriate to place the application into condition for allowance.

Specifically, claims 15, 16, 19-25 and 27 have been amended and claims 17 and 18 have been canceled. No new claims have been added to the application. Accordingly, claims 15, 16 and 19-29 are pending in the application. No new matter has been added.

In the prior Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 15-17 and 19-25 on grounds that such claims included abbreviated designations in parentheses. In response to the Examiner's request, applicant has removed all such designations from the claims pending in the application.

Also in the prior Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, applicant has rewritten claims 15 and 20 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It should now be quite clear that all steps of the automatic test are done by the interface circuit/device, which is connected via the telecommunication network to a central content-server and on the other side to the telecommunication device and to the workstation. It should now also be clear that the interface circuit/device establishes the connection vicariously for the telecommunication device. The claims, as amended, also make it clear that the interface circuit/device tests the bandwidth available to the telecommunication device as it acts vicariously for the telecommunication device. And, it is also now clear that the telecommunication device is the registered participant of the e-learning and tele-teaching event, not the interface circuit/device. Support for the amendments to claims 15 and 20 can be found in the specification on page 17, line 4, to page 19, line 2, and on page 22, line 15, to page 23, line 2).

Also in the prior Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of multiple prior art

references. On page 7 of the Detailed Action portion of the Office Action, the Examiner inaccurately rephrases applicant's invention and then, based on that characterization, concludes that such an invention would have been obvious in view of the prior art. In view of the clarifying amendments made to the claims by this Amendment, and for the reasons set forth herein, reconsideration of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

As described in detail in the specification and as claimed in independent claims 15 and 20, the present invention provides a method and a system for the establishment of a virtual electronic teaching system for an e-learning or tele-teaching event and with a workstation of a person participating in the e-learning or tele-teaching event. In accordance with the method and system, the connection of the person to the event can be accomplished immediately, even by an untrained user. This is done by registering an interface circuit connected to a telecommunication device or to the workstation via a telecommunication network having a main distribution to a central content-server, and also establishing a connection vicarious for the telecommunication device between the interface circuit and the content server. Thus, both telecommunication device and workstation are connected to the central content-server. By this arrangement, the interface circuit establishes the connection vicarious for the telecommunication device and thus prevents "time out"-problems by indicating the complete reception of an image file such that the workstation remains connected to the tele-teaching or e-learning event including during periods when broadband transmission is not possible. Thus, the connection is not lost, for example, when the transmission of high-resolution images with a frame rate of 16 1/sec is not possible because only 56 KBit connection (non-broadband) is available. Also in order to avoid idle times, the interface circuit automatically breaks the connection in case of inactivity in data communications greater than a preselected waiting time (short hold) and, once data are pending again, restores the connection. None of the prior art references cited by the Examiner describe or suggest a method or a system that utilizes and/or comprises an interface circuit that establishes a connection to the content-server vicarious for the telecommunication device.

The Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,356,943) in view of Redfern (U.S. Pat. 7,313,130), Lawrence (U.S. Pat. 6,825,196), Kukic (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0169780 A1), Kloninger et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0073596), Hughes et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,434,612) and Moutafov (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0225889 A1). Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art references cited by the Examiner cannot be combined in such a way as to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to claim 15. Reconsideration is thus respectfully requested.

Murray et al. shows a distance learning implementation which is effected as a client/ server solution with a centralized server facility and a remote client facility. The distance learning implementation empowers an organization to replicate the online experience that students will encounter when using the central resource, such as the real-time environment of a host system and/or expensive dedicated system, without incurring the costs (and risk) associated with transporting specialized, expensive equipment to a remote site for training, and without incurring the cost of transporting trainees to a centralized facility or premises housing the specialized, expensive equipment on which the trainees are trained. To achieve this, the centralized server facility of Murray et al. includes a first network with at least one host processor system and associated operating software. Each of the at least one host processor system(s) is configured in the network with at least one specialized apparatus, such as an Integrated Cache Disk Array, which represents an operating environment for purposes of training remote trainees. A gateway, in the form of a router, provides access to the centralized server facility network, and the at least one host processor system is selectably accessible through a switch in the server facility network. The router advantageously provides both routing and bridging for a wide variety of protocols and network media between the central facilities resources and the remote site. The router comprises network interfaces resident on port adapters, that provide a connection between the router's Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) busses and external networks, and advantageously support any combination of interfaces, such as Ethernet, Fast Ethernet, Token Ring, FDDI, ATM, serial, ISDN, and HSSI. The present distance learning implementation relies on a packet-switched architecture, as opposed to a circuit switching model. To enable a switched

architecture, a standalone switch is connected between the router and the central site's various computational resources. The switch replaces shared hubs, such as 10 BaseT hubs and is capable of delivering up to 320 Mbps forwarding bandwidth and 450,000 pps aggregate packet forwarding rate. It is flexibly configurable between cut-through and store-and-forward switching.

The remote site is the client side of the client/server implementation according to the distance learning implementation of Murray et al. The remote training facility must be configured and deconfigured by a training specialist. The remote site is configured by said training specialist to provide each classroom participant with his or her own computer for real-time online training in the environment of the central site's resources. The remote training facility network is configured by a training specialist as a client with a minimal amount of hardware to access the centralized server facility network over a standard digital communications network, such as an integrated services digital network (ISDN) line. The remote training facility network comprises at least one portable computer, such as a laptop PC, interconnected via a hub router to the standard digital communications network. For laptops at the remote site to access the centrally located mainframe, the computer user starts a client session of Exceed which is used in the 3270 terminal emulation mode, by selecting an appropriate icon. This session request is sent through the remote router, through the ISDN line to the centrally located router and there through to the centrally located switch to the mainframe, where it affects a login if this is configured by the training specialist. The personal computers used at the remote site are connected to a remote site hub router designed for the appropriately sized access environment. The system relies on ISDN connectivity between the remote site and central site, thus the hub router in the illustrative embodiment contains an ISDN Basic Rate Interface (BRI) and terminal adapter, and includes scalability through the inclusion of repeater connectivity and additional synchronous interfaces for added remote connectivity. After the connections are made, connectivity tests between the remote PCs and the hub router, between the hub router and each of the central site router and resources can commence. Therefore, Murray et al is not based on existing technical means, but requires special software and hardware elements

especially routers at each side, and the need for a specialist to configure and deconfigure the remote training facility.

Furthermore, the distance learning implementation of Murray et al. fails to give the technical inspiration of automatic test of the available bandwidth during operation by using an interface circuit according to the present invention. As noted above, by continuously and automatically verifying with the interface circuit, "time out" problems may be prevented, as the interface circuit registers itself to the server and an image file is confirmed as completely received, so that the workstation is still kept in the e-learning or tele-teaching event including during periods when a broadband connection is not available. This simply cannot be accomplished by the distance learning implementation of Murray et al. Furthermore, the interface circuit according to the present invention can be switched to another transmission channel depending on the requirement on bandwidth. This is achieved by dynamical channel management and bandwidth control at the interface circuit. This is also not possible according to the present distance learning implementation of Murray et al.

In the virtual electronic teaching system according to the invention, the interface circuit registers itself to a central content server with the aid of the log-in procedure stored in the memory unit, and then determines the type of the connection at the communication interface of the interface circuit. After that, the interface circuit sends at least one test information stored in the memory unit to the central content server, and evaluates the acknowledgement with response to the test information returned in the opposite direction by the content server, so as to automatically verify the bandwidth available at the telecommunication device during operation.

In comparison with electronic teaching systems known in the art, the advantage of the present invention is that no expensive preliminary installation is needed. The interface circuit enables simple expansion and modification of the teaching system, including images from a new user group and significantly enlargement of the area of application. In particular, a new student is able to take part in the system immediately, even accomplished by an untrained user. Moreover, another advantage of the present invention is, a user may make his personal conception on the virtual electronic teaching system in a surprisingly simple way. In comparison with the prior art, the user may configure the virtual electronic teaching

system according to their requirement by means of a procedure controlled by a menu, so that the functions of software are not limited, and the producers need not select among the corresponding functions any more, such as to realize a general interface.

Murray et al. fails disclose the technical solutions as set forth in claim 15 of the present application. Persons skilled in the art are not able to obtain the technical inspiration on the virtual electronic teaching system when reading Murray et al. To the contrary, Murray et al. discloses a static information transmission system, which cannot be altered dynamically and which necessarily requires special software and hardware elements, especially routers at each side, and to be configured and deconfigured by a training specialist. And the references cited by the Examiner in combination with Murray et al. cannot cure these defects without completely destroying the system and goals of Murray et al.

Redfern discloses a spectrally compatible mask for enhanced upstream data rates in DSL systems, especially a method and apparatus for providing extended upstream data transmission in a band having a lowest frequency  $f_0$  by an end user terminal unit in an asymmetric digital subscriber line communication between a central office terminal unit and the end user terminal unit, using a loop having a length. However, there is a large group of users in both home offices and small businesses for which it is desirable to have a bandwidth split which is not as biased towards higher data rates in the downstream. It is not possible to simply re-allocate tones from downstream to upstream, to achieve this goal, because the ADSL standard defines a power spectral density (PSD) for communication, by specifying a PSD mask not to be violated. In the telephone infrastructure, the twisted pairs of many end-users in an area are eventually gathered together in a bundle that extends to the CO. The limits specified in the PSD mask prevent undue interference of ADSL signals on a given twisted pair with ADSL or other communications on other twisted

pairs in the same bundle. If the crosstalk energy is sufficiently large, it can overwhelm a receiver, and actually prevent communication on the affected twisted pair.

In the method, a target rate of upstream data transmission is provided. A plurality of sets of values is determined, of (1) an extension frequency  $f_2$  that is higher than a frequency  $f_1$  for upstream data transmission,  $f_1$  being a frequency established for non-extended upstream data transmission, the region bounded by  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  being an extension band for upstream data transmission, and (2) a maximum power level  $S_2$  for the extension band determined by the extension frequency in the set. From the estimated loop length, a selection set of values for  $f_2$  and  $S_2$  is determined. Both terminal units select from the set of values by performing a signal-to-noise ratio determination and determining the value which results in an upstream data rate that approximates the target rate. Data is transmitted upstream by the end user terminal unit using the selection set of values. When an ATU-R modem first links to an ATU-C modem, a well-known initialization protocol is followed, in four phases, the first phase, is the "handshake," the second phase is called "training," in the third phase, the transceivers exchange capability information and perform detailed channel analysis and in the last phase of the initialization "setting" the final transmission rates in both the upstream and downstream directions for the connection. In general, in the practice of Redfern, in order to affect an enhanced upstream data rate in an ADSL communication, a PSD limit, or mask, is determined for requirements of the specific ADSL communication mode and the loop length over which the communication is to occur. This mask used to control the amplitudes of signals transmitted during the upstream transmission, in order to make the transmission comply with the restrictions imposed by a spectrum management standard.

Lawrence discloses a method and apparatus to allow connection establishment over diverse link types, especially to allow arbitrary types of connections to be established over arbitrary link types that include link types that do not inherently support virtual circuits. One disadvantage is that in the prior art, the combination of a connection routing system and a virtual circuit switch does not allow sending packets of data on every link type. For example, no existing switch allows

the forwarding of packets on virtual circuits, set up by a PNNI controller, from ATM links that support virtual circuits to Ethernet links that do not inherently support virtual circuits. The data switching system according to Lawrence includes a label switching system to establish virtual circuit connections over any link types. The data switching system also includes a connection routing and signaling controller, coupled to the label switching system, to determine routes for connections over any link types. By way of one embodiment of the present data switching system, one may establish PNNI routing over Ethernet links, for example. The connection routing software runs a connection routing protocol from connection controller to connection controllers of other switches. Typically, connection information is extracted from the connection routing software that runs on the connection controller, which performs signaling that allows it to develop a map of the network and to maintain a topology database. Based on the topology database and other information, a connection controller determines a need for connections and specific routes through the network and also extracts cross-connect information to set up connections at the switch. When a packet is forwarded to its next hop, a label is sent along with the packet, i.e., the packet is "labeled." A "labeled packet" is a packet on which a label has been attached. At subsequent hops, the label is used as an index to a table which specifies the next hop and the new label. The old label is then replaced with a new label, and the packet is forwarded to its next hop. The process of using labels from incoming packets to determine next-hop links and outgoing labels is known as label switching. The label stack is represented as a sequence of "label stack entries". The operation may be to replace the top label stack entry with another, or to pop an entry off the label stack, or to replace the top label stack entry and then to push one or more additional entries on the label stack. In addition to learning the next hop and the label stack operation, one may also learn the outgoing data link encapsulation, and possibly other information needed to properly forward the packet.

Kukic discloses a method and a system for establishing link bit rate for inverse multiplexed data streams, especially for determining link characteristics in order to calculate the optimal data rate because of a link failure. Known solutions to this problem teach that the data stream can be distributed or split into separate streams and the separate streams sent over multiple links or lines of lower capacity; the



aggregate capacity of the lower capacity links is sufficient to carry the data stream. This approach to splitting data or transporting the data stream over several links is known as "inverse multiplexing". Known methods of inverse multiplexing teach that all of the low capacity links, among which the ATM data stream is inversely multiplexed, have to be trained at an optimal rate and synchronized so that each line is transmitting from the transmitter end to the receiver end at the same rate. The links are considered and trained as needed, but this leads to unnecessary time delays for restoring traffic flow when a link failure occurs because the characteristics of other links have to be determined and a new optimal rate established. The system includes at least two inverse multiplexers (IMUXs) coupled by a pre-activation communication channel and multiple physical communication links. The system is also shown with a processor coupled to the IMUX, however, the processor could be coupled to the second IMUX or the processor could be an internal part of either the IMUXs.

Kukic includes a first unit at a first location coupled to one end of each of a plurality of low capacity data links for assisting in determining the characteristics of each of the links, a second unit at the second location coupled to the other end of each of the links for assisting in determining the characteristics of each of the links based on the characteristics of the test signal received at the second unit, and a processor coupled to the second unit for determining the optimal transmission rate based on the characteristics of the links and the number of links needed to provide the desired transmission rate.

The method according to Kukic includes determining the characteristics and a maximum rate for each of the links to create a list of available links and associated transmission rates; selecting the link with the lowest rate and setting all available links to transmit at the same rate to determine a total available rate; comparing the total available rate based on the lowest rate and the number of available links to the desired rate; selecting the next lowest rate from the available rates and setting all other links to transmit at the next lowest rate to determine another total available rate; continuing the selecting and comparing until all available rates have been considered to create a list of maximum rates that correspond to the rate for one of the available links, and thus, selecting one total available rate from the total available

rates that is at least equal to or greater than the desired rate to produce the optimal rate. The process of determining and selecting the optimal transmission rate is carded out by the processor. Various factors are considered, including the characteristics of each link, in order to determine the optimal rate. The characteristics considered include attenuation, error-rate, and noise.

Kloninger et al. discloses an enterprise content delivery network having a central controller for coordinating a set of content servers, which includes two basic components: a set of content servers; and a central controller for providing coordination and control of the content servers. To solve the object of providing an ECDN wherein a central controller is used to coordinate a set of distributed servers (e.g., caching appliances, streaming servers, or machines that provide both HTTP and streaming media delivery) in a unified system, the central controller coordinates the set of distributed servers into a unified system, e.g., by providing provisioning, content control, request mapping, monitoring and reporting.

Content requests may be mapped to optimal content servers by DNS-based or HTTP redirect-based mapping, or by using a policy engine that takes into consideration such factors as the location of a requesting client machine, the content being requested, asynchronous data from periodic measurements of an enterprise network and state of the servers, and given capacity reservations on the enterprise links. An ECDN provisioned with the basic components facilitates various customer applications, such as live, corporate, streaming media (from internal or Internet sources), and HTTP Web content delivery. The enterprise content delivery network according to Kloninger et al. further provides for bandwidth protection, as corporations rely on their connectivity between offices for mission critical day to day operations such as email, data transfer, sales force automation (SFA), and the like.

Kloninger et al. addresses this need with the development of an application-layer bandwidth protection feature that enables network administrators to define the maximum bandwidth consumption of the ECDN. In a typical ECDN customer environment Central Controllers are few (e.g., approximately 2 per 25 edge locations), and they are usually deployed to larger offices serving as network hubs. The Central Controller may also integrate and make information and alerts available to existing enterprise monitoring systems. Content Servers are responsible for

delivering content to end users, by first attempting to serve out of cache, and in the instance of a cache miss, by fetching the original file from an origin server. A Content Server may also perform stream splitting in a live streaming situation, allowing for scalable distribution of live streams. Other components that complement the ECDN include origin servers, storage, and streaming encoders. The first two are components that most corporate networks already possess, and the latter is a component that is provided as a part of most third party streaming applications. Communications to and from the configuration and reporting modules may occur through an http server. A policy engine may influence decisions whether routing is provided by a metafile redirector, or by a DNS name server. Preferably, the policy engine is rules-based, and each rule may be tried in rank order until a match is made. Alternatively, the Central Controller may implement DNS-based mapping of client requests to servers. In this case, the DNS name server accepts hits from HTTP clients, requests a policy ruling from the policy engine, and returns this policy decision to the client, typically in the form of an IP address of a given content server.

The bandwidth protection is implemented in the Content Server alternatively; bandwidth protection is implemented in a distributed manner. If bandwidth protection is done in a distributed manner, the ECDN Central Controller may maintain a database of link topology and usage, and that database is frequently updated, to facilitate the bandwidth protection via a given policy. Alternatively, bandwidth protection can be implemented by the Central Controller heuristically.

An ECDN as described in Kloninger et al. facilitates various customer applications, such as one or more of the following: live, corporate, streaming media (internal and Internet sources), HTTP content delivery, liveness checking of streaming media servers, network "hotspot" detection with policy-based avoidance and alternative routing options for improved user request handling, video-on-demand (VOD) policy management for the distribution of on-demand video files, intranet content distribution and caching, and load management and distributed resource routing for targeted object servers. An ECDN may comprise existing enterprise content and/or media servers together with the (add-on) Central Controller, or the ECDN provider may provide both the Central Controller and the content servers. As noted above, a Content Server may be a server that supports either HTTP content

delivery or streaming media delivery, or that provides both HTTP and streaming delivery from the same machine.

Hughes et al. describes a connection control interface for asynchronous transfer mode switches that addresses a different problem and a provides a solution than the references cited by the Examiner and than that which is claimed in the present application. Similarly, Moutafov describes a method and a system for layering an infinite request/reply data stream on finite, unidirectional, time-limited transport that describes a different problem and solution. The references cited by the Examiner, when considered alone or in combination, simply would not lead a person having ordinary skill in the art to the invention as claimed in claim 15. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the prior Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al., Redfern, Lawrence, Kukic, Kloninger et al., Hughes et al. and Moutafov as applied to claim 15 further in view of Okamoto et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2008/0235427 A1) and Prattabhiraman et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0059408 A1). The Examiner contends that Murray et al., Redfern, Lawrence, Kukic, Kloninger et al., Hughes et al. and Moutafov, as combined by the Examiner, read on the subject matter of claim 16 except wherein the interface circuit is a plug-in card for the telecommunication device or the workstation, and wherein depending on the bandwidth demand said plug-in card automatically activates additional communication channels by means of which a dynamic channel management and bandwidth control is achieved. The Examiner contends that Okamoto et al. and Prattibhiraman et al. supply these teachings. Applicant respectfully submits that Okamoto et al. and Prattibhiraman et al. do not and cannot be relied upon to correct the deficiencies of the Examiner's combination as applied to claim 15, and thus claim 16 is patentable over all such references. Reconsideration is thus respectfully requested.

The Examiner's rejections of claims 17 and 18 are moot in view of the cancellation of such claims. Applicant notes that the subject matter of such claims has now been incorporated into claim 15. And, as noted above, claim 15 is clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al., Redfern, Lawrence, Kukic, Kloninger et al., Hughes et al. and Moutafov as applied to claim 15 further in view of Nessett et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,742,759).

Nessett et al. describes a method and a system for facilitating access control to system resources in a distributed computer system. Nessett et al. cannot be relied upon to cure the defect in the combination of references cited against claim 15, from which claim 19 depends. Accordingly, claim 19 is patentable over the prior art references of record.

In the prior Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al., Redfern, Kloninger et al., Kukic, Hughes et al. and Moutafov. Claim 20 includes many of the same elements as claim 15, but is recited in terms of a system rather than a method. The Examiner's rejection of claim 20 is the same as the rejection of claim 15, except that the Examiner no longer relies on Lawrence. Applicant respectfully submits that the system as claimed in claim 20 is patentable over the references cited by the Examiner for the same reasons that the method as claimed in claim 15 is patentable over such references. A person having ordinary skill in the art simply would not find applicant's invention as claimed in claim 20 obvious in view of the cited prior art.

The Examiner's rejection of claim 23 is difficult to understand. Claim 23 requires that an intelligent operating element be connected to the interface circuit. In rejecting claim 23, the Examiner simply mentions that Murray et al. shows trainee laptops 32 connected to a remote site hub router 34 (referencing Fig. 1 and col. 7, lines 1-3). No explanation is provided by the Examiner regarding how the laptops of Murray et al. would meet the requirements of claim 23. Applicant respectfully submits that they do not. As noted in applicant's specification, an intelligent operating element is designed to interpret, for example, voice files which are stored on the participant's computer or which are transmitted as a stream within the scope of e-learning or tele-teaching event as a so-called "teacher track" (which cannot be altered by the student) and further to that, to record exercises by the student, for example, repeating a sample text, on the "student track". Recordings are stored in both cases on the memory media of the participant's computers, and are replayed

using the computer's sound equipment. In this case, this voice lab operating element is connected to the appropriate communication head set (microphone, ear phones) and serves as workstation. Nothing of this sort is provided by Murray et al. The laptops would simply be the PC's or local workstations used by the participants. The Examiner's rejection of claim 23 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 21 and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al., Redfern, Kloninger et al., Kukic, Hughes et al., Moutafov, and Okamoto et al. The Examiner rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al., Redfern, Kloninger et al., Kukic, Hughes et al., Moutafov, Okamoto et al. and Rothman et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0027954 A1). The Examiner rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al., Redfern, Kloninger et al., Kukic, Hughes et al., Moutafov, Okamoto et al. and Klingman (U.S. Pat. No. 5,799,285). The Examiner rejected claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al., Redfern, Kloninger et al., Kukic, Hughes et al., Moutafov, Okamoto et al. and Stephenson et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2007/0136480). And, the Examiner rejected claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al., Redfern, Kloninger et al., Kukic, Hughes et al., Moutafov, Okamoto et al. and Pratabhiraman et al. The prior art references cited by the Examiner against claims 21, 22 and 24-29 simply cannot be relied upon to cure the defects in the combination of references cited against claim 20, from which all such claims depend. Accordingly, claims 21, 22 and 24-29 are patentable over the prior art references of record.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. WDL-18975.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL & CLARK LLP

By: /Randolph E. Digges, III/  
Randolph E. Digges, III, Reg. No. 40590

38210 Glenn Avenue  
Willoughby, Ohio 44094-7808  
(216) 566-9700